

# THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



**TONI ATKINS**  
COUNCILMEMBER  
THIRD DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Councilmember Atkins Opposes Parking Meter Increase

SAN DIEGO--Third District City Councilmember Toni Atkins vocally opposed a council action taken Tuesday, June 10th, which seeks to increase parking meter fees to \$1.30 an hour, and lengthen the hours of enforcement to 8pm. Councilmember Atkins voted against the proposal on the grounds that it creates an unfair burden on the few areas of the City which have parking meters, including the District Three communities of Hillcrest and Mid-City, as well as the bordering communities of Mission Hills, Little Italy and Downtown.

"This proposal will raise fees on the backs of a few of our older, urban communities," said Councilmember Atkins. "And to make matters worse, the few business districts that would bear the brunt of this increase don't receive any of the increased parking fees back into their community, and that's just not fair."

The proposal, which was approved by a 6-3 vote, seeks to raise \$2.5 million annually in increased meter revenue and parking fines to help address the City's pending \$30 million budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2004. The council rejected the City Manager's recommendation to raise the fees to \$1.60 an hour, and instead approved an alternate proposal which included the increase to \$1.30 as well as an expansion in the hours of enforcement from 6pm to 8pm, Monday to Saturday.

"The communities that already have meters feel like they have been contributing to the City's budget for decades already. Why should they be the only ones tapped to close this part of the budget gap?" said Atkins.

The action passed by council on Tuesday represents the first reading of the new ordinance. The second reading will take place at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 24th, in Council Chambers on the 12th floor of the City Administration Building, 202 C Street, Downtown. The meeting will begin at 10am, and reconvene at 2pm after breaking for lunch at noon. This is the final opportunity for the public to be heard on this matter.

"I just don't see how it's equitable to increase the cost of parking in some communities by 30 cents an hour, but not in other parts of the city," Atkins said. "Clearly, something is out of balance here, and it needs to be addressed."

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